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MEDICAL LIBRARY

MEDLARS II Contract Signed

On June 11 a contract for $2,037,505 was let by the Library as the first step in acquiring MEDLARS II (see September '66 and January '68 *News*). The other signatory to the contract is the Computer Sciences Corporation of Los Angeles.

In announcing the signing of the contract, NLM Director Martin M. Cummings, M.D., said: "We have now reached the point where the volume of information to be processed exceeds the time available of both men and machines of the present system. MEDLARS II will give us the capability of responding to the increasing requirements of the biomedical community."

The new system will provide for an integrated, automated system for the performance of all major functions of the Library. Automated support and control will be provided from the time material is ordered from a publisher, through cataloging and indexing, to its appearance in a Library publication or in response to a search request from an individual practitioner, scientist, or educator.

The heart of the MEDLARS II system will be a CSC-designed set of interrelated computer programs called Computer System for Medical Information Services (COSMIS). A major new data management system, COSMIS will enable persons using MEDLARS II to address the computer in a language closely approximating conversational English.

The Computer Sciences Corporation contract covers the design, development, and program support for MEDLARS II but does not include the computer equipment. The Library (through the General Services Administration) will procure an IBM 360-50 computer. An initial version of the expanded system will be operational by the middle of 1969 and an on-line version by mid 1970. Progressive improvements will be made under the contract through 1971.

Two Regional Medical Library Grants Awarded

The Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and the Health Sciences Library of the University of Washington, Seattle, have been designated as Regional Medical Libraries, according to Mr. David F. Kefauver, Associate Director for Extramural Programs, NLM. Mr. Kefauver also stated that a grant to the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, Boston (*NLM News*, September 1967) has been extended for another year. Details of the new areas to be served will be announced shortly.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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Three National Libraries Agree on Compatibility

The librarians of the three national libraries have announced two major steps in achieving systems compatibility among the institutions. These are the adoption of a standard format for machine-readable cataloging data, and agreement on standards for descriptive cataloging.

Both steps are basic to (1) achieving a common language for transmitting machine-readable cataloging information prepared by the three national libraries, (2) creating a central bibliographic data bank which can be used by all automated libraries that adopt the same language, and (3) increasing the quantity and usefulness of cataloging information available to libraries through the existing national distribution services of the Library of Congress.

The U.S. National Libraries Task Force (see July '67 and January '68 *News*), which made the two recommendations to the libraries, is chaired by Samuel Lazerow of the Library of Congress. Bella Schachtman represents the National Agricultural Library on the Task Force, and the NLM representative is James P. Riley, Deputy Associate Director for Library Operations.

The first agreement, the provision of cataloging information in machine-readable form, will, when implemented, greatly increase the versatility of the use of this information in libraries. The computer permits a greater variety of approaches to the information than card catalogs or book catalogs provide, and libraries with computer facilities can print out more easily and quickly a greater variety of research tools, such as bibliographies on selected subjects. The computer store also reduces repetitive efforts in library work, since libraries can also print out multiple copies of book labels, card pockets, accession lists, purchase records, and other information from the same machine-readable record.

The second agreement, the acceptance of common standards to be adopted by the three national libraries in their descriptive cataloging practices, is similarly important in libraries using computers, so that bibliographic elements can be identified uniformly through computer manipulation. Of 43 elements involved in descriptive cataloging practices at the three national libraries, eight created problems because of variations in practices. Each of the three libraries has agreed to change some of its practices to achieve a higher degree of systems compatibility.

President Johnson Appoints Three New Regents

The Senate has confirmed President Johnson's nomination of three prominent educators to be members of the Library's Board of Regents: William Anlyan, M.D., Durham, North Carolina; George Teuscher, D.D.S., Chicago, Illinois; and Max Michael, M.D., Jacksonville, Florida. The three new Regents will serve four-year terms beginning in August, succeeding Drs. Barnes Woodhall, Walsh McDermott, and Morris Tager.

Dr. Anlyan (42), Dean of the School of Medicine, Duke University, earned his B.S. and M.D. degrees at Yale University. A Diplomate of the American Board of Surgeons, Dr. Anlyan has been affiliated with Duke University since 1949 as a clinician and educator. He was Markle Scholar in medical science (1953).

Dr. Teuscher (60), is Dean of the Northwestern University Dental School. Dr. Teuscher received the D.D.S., M.S.D., A.M., and Ph.D. degrees from Northwestern University and has been associated with Northwestern in the fields of pedodontics, surgery, and dentistry since 1933. He has served as President of the American Association of Dental Schools, the American Dental Association of Illinois, and the American Dental Society for Children.

Dr. Michael (52), is Executive Director of the Jacksonville Hospitals Educational Programs. Since receiving his M.D. degree from Harvard University in 1939, Dr. Michael has had a distinguished teaching career in the schools of medicine at Emory University, the State University of New York, and the University of Florida. He is an Associate, American College of Physicians, and is a member of numerous professional organizations.

NLM Staff Receive Awards

At the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in Denver (June 10-14), the Ida and George Eliot Award was presented to John B. Blake, Ph.D., Chief of the History of Medicine Division, and Charles A. Roos, Head of the Reference Section, Reference Services Division. Dr. Blake and Mr. Roos received the award for their work in editing *Medical Reference Works, 1679-1966, A Selected Bibliography* (December '67 *News*). Also at the meeting, Miss Nancy M. Lorenzi, an NLM-supported graduate library student at Case Western Reserve University, received the MLA's first Rittenhouse Award for her original paper,"Role of the Library within the Hospital System."

Daniel L. Carangi, the Library's Graphics Director, received an award from the Society of Federal Artists and Designers for "outstanding visual communication." This is the second consecutive year the S.F.A.D. has cited Mr. Carangi. He has also received recognition from several other professional organizations in the last two years.

The close relationship between the professions of law and medicine is explored visually in an exhibit in the NLM lobby. The display includes representations of ancient legal codes such as those of Ur-Nammu and Hammurabi, rare books and prints dealing with poisoning, witchcraft, torture, etc., and a section dealing with contemporary law-medicine relationships.

The exhibit will be open to the public during the Library's regular summer hours.*

A Literature Search (No. 9-68), "Ethical and Legal Aspects of Transplantation," has been prepared in conjunction with the exhibit and a 40-page publication, *Highlights in Medicolegal Relations*, has been prepared for distribution to visitors. Both publications are available on request from the Office of Public Information, NLM.

Publications Notes

The *Evaluation of the MEDLARS Demand Search Service*, a report of a two-year study of MEDLARS conducted by Mr. F. Wilfrid Lancaster of the NLM staff, is available without charge to *News* readers. Requests should be directed to the Office of Public Information, NLM.

The annual subscription price set by GPO for the new *Toxicity Bibliography* (April '68 *News*) is $9.00 ($11.25 foreign). Single issues: $2.25.

*Summer hours: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

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